

## Message Text

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG, XX

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE UNIFIED COMMAND STRUCTURE

1. ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES SCHLESINGER PLANS TO ANNOUNCE THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF TWO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE UNIFIED COMMANDS AND THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THESE COMMANDS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SPECIFIED COMMAND. THE UNIFIED COMMANDS TO BE ELIMINATED ARE THE ALASKAN COMMAND AT ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, ALASKA AND THE CONTINENTAL AIR DEFENSE COMMAND AT COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO. THE NEW SPECIFIED COMMAND WILL BE THE AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND AT COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO, WHICH WILL TAKE OVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONTINENTAL AIR DEFENSE COMMAND.

2. THE DECISION TO DISESTABLISH THE TWO COMMANDS AND THEIR HEADQUARTERS IS PART OF A CONTINUING EFFORT BY  
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THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT

EFFECTIVENESS AND TO REDUCE HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORT UNITS FOR HEADQUARTERS. THESE CHANGES TO THE UNITED STATES UNIFIED COMMAND STRUCTURE REQUIRED THE APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT FORD. DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE TWO COMMANDS AND THEIR HEADQUARTERS WILL BE COMPLETED BY JULY 1, 1975. THESE AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS TO

REDUCE AND ELIMINATE HEADQUARTERS IN THESE TWO COMMANDS WILL RESULT IN A SAVINGS OF ABOUT 1900 MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POSITIONS. THESE SAVINGS WILL, FOR THE MOST PART, BE USED TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR COMBAT UNITS AND WILL NOT EFFECT THE STATIONING OF US FORCES IN THESE AREAS.

3. ALL OF THE ESSENTIAL MILITARY FUNCTIONS NOW BEING PERFORMED BY THE TWO COMMANDS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY OTHER MILITARY ACTIVITIES. IN ALASKA, THE ALASKAN AIR COMMAND WILL COORDINATE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICS MATTERS FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES. IN COLORADO THE AIR FORCE AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND WILL ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES FORMERLY PERFORMED BY THE CONTINENTAL AIR DEFENSE COMMAND.

4. FOR THE TIME BEING, ALL OTHER UNIFIED AND SPECIFIED COMMANDS WILL BE RETAINED, ALTHOUGH STUDIES OF THE UNIFIED COMMAND STRUCTURE ARE CONTINUING. THESE COMMANDS ARE: US EUROPEAN COMMAND AT STUTTGART, GERMANY; US PACIFIC COMMAND, HONOLULU, HAWAII; US ATLANTIC COMMAND, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA; US READINESS COMMAND, MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, TAMPA, FLORIDA; US SOUTHERN COMMAND, QUARRY HEIGHTS, PANAMA; AND STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND, OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

5. UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAM FOR STABILITY OF CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ASSIST DISPLACED CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES IN OBTAINING OTHER ACCEPTABLE EMPLOYMENT. ELIGIBLE CAREER EMPLOYEES DESIRING PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE WILL BE REGISTERED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PRIORITY

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PLACEMENT PROGRAM AND THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION'S DISPLACED EMPLOYEES PROGRAM FOR REFERRAL AND CONSIDERATION IN OTHER VACANCIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND BY OTHER FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

6. THIS ACTION IS BEING ANNOUNCED AT THIS TIME IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED CONCERNING THE

CONTINUING DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EFFORT TO IMPROVE  
MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND MAKE MORE EFFICIENT USE  
OF RESOURCES BY REDUCING THE NUMBER, SIZE, LAYERING  
AND DUPLICATION OF HEADQUARTERS BY UPDATING AND  
STREAMLINING COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS.

7. FOR EMBASSY OTTAWA: THESE CHANGES WILL HAVE NO  
IMPACT ON OUR DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS WITH CANADA. ALL  
BILATERAL MILITARY AGREEMENTS WITH CANADA WILL CONTINUE.
8. PROPOSED Q'S AND A'S TO FOLLOW SEPTEL.
9. NO INFORMATION IS TO BE RELEASED UNTIL THE  
ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE IN WASHINGTON. KISSINGER

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